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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT
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U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

SUBJECT: "What About Lumber?" ... Information from Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

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If you're in a "building" frame of mind--these days...there's one question you want to hear answered. And that's "How soon will we be able to get the lumber?"

Maybe you heard that after V-J day...military cutbacks would make more lumber available for civilian use. And you've wondered why some of that lumber doesn't show up in your dealer's yard.

Well--here's how foresters of the U.S.Department of Agriculture explain the continued shortage.

The military cutbacks represented orders for lumber not yet cut. So before it could come to the market where you could buy it...this lumber had to be sawed and finished. Then it had to be distributed through the regular channels.

Although there are no major problems of reconversion in the lumber industry... the manufacture of lumber has been slowed up. This is due--in part--to a continued manpower shortage in the sawmills.

Now that the military is pretty much out of the labor market...there should be about twice as much lumber available for civilian construction in 1946 as there was in 1945.

However...lumber dealers' stocks are very low. If demand for lumber equals production...there won't be much chance to build up stocks. And so long as lumber moves out of the dealers' yards just about as fast as it comes in...you will have trouble in finding seasoned stocks. You're also likely to have trouble in finding the special items you may want.

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